

13 August 2014

To: Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

Re: Ceremonial Street Dedication in Honour of Nelson Mandela

Members,

We are writing to respectfully submit the following recommendations for your consideration:

Recommendations:

- 1. City Council ceremonially dedicate University Avenue, from Front Street West to College Street, in honour of Nelson Mandela.**
- 2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services to alter the street name signs on University Avenue, from Front Street West to College Street, to reflect both the official street name and the ceremonial name "Nelson Mandela Boulevard".**
- 3. City Council requests that efforts be made to install this signage prior to the first anniversary of Nelson Mandela's passing on 5 December 2014.**

Background

Torontonians and indeed Canadians have a very deep connection to Nelson Mandela.

In June 1991, following his release from prison, Nelson Mandela visited Canada and addressed the Canadian Parliament and spoke to many Torontonians, including students of Toronto schools. In 1998, President Mandela returned to Toronto and addressed 50,000 Canadian students and teachers at the Skydome (Rogers Centre).

In 2001, in a special session of the House of Commons and the Senate, held at the Museum of Civilization, President Mandela was granted Honorary Canadian Citizenship, only the second person to be so honoured. In November 2001, President Mandela attended the ceremony in Regent Park during which Park Public School was renamed the Nelson Mandela Park Public School.

The staff report notes that University Avenue has a connection to Nelson Mandela's Toronto legacy. First, with Desmond Tutu's "Rally Against Apartheid" prior to Nelson Mandela's release from prison, and then during his first visit in 1991, when his then-wife Winnie Mandela led a march up University Avenue to Queen's Park where Nelson Mandela gave a speech to 30,000 people. University Avenue is one of the boundary streets for our respective wards.

Therefore, to honour the life of a transformational leader that the world has rarely seen and in recognition of this deep connection to Toronto, we endorse the ceremonial dedication of University Avenue between College Street and Front Street West in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Our recommendations are consistent with the results of the public consultation undertaken by staff and are supported by the Mandela Legacy Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Pam McConnell
Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Ward 27, Toronto-Centre Rosedale

Councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
Ward 20, Trinity Spadina